

GHSA Now Among Top Five in National Safety Rankings

It's hard to believe we have been in school for a month and fall sports are well underway. I appreciate all you do to prepare and create opportunities for your students. Our schools have already submitted approximately 410,000 students for eligibility, including 2,000 transfers, 230 hardships, 99 magnet transfers and 111 home school students.

Georgia is a growing state and I expect we will have more eligible student-athletes than ever before.

I would like to recognize and thank the GHSA Sports Medicine Advisory Council for their work over the past few years. Because of this committee and the approval of the State Executive Committee, we have seen our safety rankings move from 45th in the United States to the top five as assessed by the Korey Stringer Institute.

The April State Executive Committee meeting included by-laws to guide competitions with regard to Heat Illness which I believe will further benefit our ranking nationally. Of course, the greatest benefit is the safety of our students which must be our top priority.



We appreciate the work of our school personnel as well as our many officials associations in the implementation of these critical policies. Additionally, be sure to review and practice your Emergency Action Plans for all sports and facilities. It is critical that we are prepared for any emergencies that may arise.

Finally, make good sportsmanship a point of emphasis in all of your sports and activities. We continue to see an increase in "unsporting" acts and this deserves our full attention.

If you wish to see a list of ejections and fines for the past year, go here: https://www.ghsa.net/ghsa-reports-fines-and-ejections-2022-2023 or click inside GHSA, Financials on the GHSA web site.

We have seen a slight increase in officials registration but we are not where we need to be. Officials report that the number one reason for leaving officiating is the behavior of spectators, with the behavior of coaches close behind.

Game managers need to be vigilant in confronting adverse behavior from fans and athletic directors and school administrations should set the tone for good sportsmanship with appropriate expectations from coaches. We can and must do better in this area.

Remember, our goal is to provide opportunities for our young people and extend the educational process to the fields, courts and stages. There is no better place to teach values and life skills that are essential for success later in life.

Thank you for all you do and please feel free to contact me or any GHSA staff member if we can do anything for you.

- Dr. James R. Hines, Jr., Executive Director

GHSA "Items of Interest"

Issued monthly, Sep	H SCHOOL ASSOCIA tember through April, 151 S. Bethel St., Tho	by the Georgia High		
Phone: 706-647-7473	Fax: 706-647-2638	Web: www.ghsa.net		
Office Hours:	8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mond	day through Friday		
Vol. 42	September 2023	No. 1		

- GHSA STAFF -Areas of Responsibility

ROBIN HINES - Executive Director - (extension 41) Administration, By-Law Interpretations, Hardship Rulings, Football Playoffs, Coaches Education Program

ERNIE YARBROUGH - Assistant Executive Director - (ext. 27) Championship Events, Officials Coordinator, Swimming, Lacrosse

TANYA ANDERSON - Associate Director - (ext. 29) Literary, One Act Play, Esports, DragonFly Liaison, Cross Country, Track & Field, and Event Sanctioning

DON CORR - Associate Director - (ext. 34) Softball, Wrestling, Baseball, Sports Medicine

KEVIN GIDDENS - Associate Director Bass Fishing, Football and Soccer Consultant

DARRELL LANE - Associate Director - (ext. 42) Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer

PENNY PITTS MITCHELL - Associate Director -(ext. 22) Cheerleading, Game Day Cheerleading, Gymnastics, Dance, Student Leadership, Title IX

> **JAY RUSSELL** - Associate Director - (ext. 23) Football, Flag Football, Golf, Hardship Eligibility

CARROR WRIGHT - Associate Director - (ext. 39) Coach's Liaison, Compliance & Transfer Eligibility, Sportsmanship

STEVE FIGUEROA - Media Director - (ext. 26) Media, Newsletter, Constitution & Calendar, Tennis

ROBIN BULLINGTON - Office Manager - (ext. 33) Budgeting and Finances, Playoff Finances, Staff Procedures

JULIE JONES - Administrative Assistant - (ext. 24) Coaches Education, Dues, Entry Notification

STACEY JONES - Administrative Assistant - (ext. 32) Riflery Liaison, School Contacts & School Passes, Directory, Coaches' Clinics, Trophies & Medals

SHERI EUBANKS - Receptionist - (ext. 0) Hardship Hearings, Fines, School System/Retiree Passes, Publication Orders

PAM THOMPSON - Officials' Registrar - (ext. 30) Officials' Registration, Testing & Online Clinics, Service Awards <u>REMINDER</u>: The GHSA has again waived Membership Dues for all schools this year.

Sept. is Cancer Awareness Month

September is official fall sports "Cancer Awareness Month" in the Georgia High School Association to help fight all types of this dreaded disease.

Teams may wear colored jerseys, socks, wristbands, and headbands during a home game to show support for their chosen cancer fundraiser.

As part of September Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, the GHSA is partnering with, Rally Foundation (https://rallyfoundation.org) and CURE Childhood Cancer (https://curechildhoodcancer.org) dedicated to funding targeted research while supporting patients and their families.

Please visit their websites, to learn how to "Go Gold" at one of your upcoming games.

In observance of Breast Cancer "Pink" awareness, the GHSA allows member schools to wear "Pink" at their HOME event.

January (winter) and April (spring) are additional "cancer awareness" months throughout the GHSA scholastic season.

Thank you to everyone in advance for your enthusiasm and action to fight back against cancer.



GHSA Licensed Products

This month's featured licensees are: Jostens, official championship rings and jewlery (jostens.com), CheerSounds, official music provider of cheerleading with premade mixes, make your own mix, and fully custom music. (cheersounds.com); Musco Sports Lighting, leader in developing sports-lighting technology solutions (musco.com); Hudl, official video exchange service (hudl.com); Hartwell Studio Works, creating unique, dynamic and protectable spirit logos/marks (hartwellstudioworks.com); NFHS Network, School Broadcast Program produces, distributes and monetize your school's own video streaming Web powered by PlayOn Sports. (nfhsnetwork.com/associations/ghsa); and TeamIP, official merchandiser and online store (teamip.com). View a complete list of GHSA licensees at www.ghsa.net/licensing.

The 2023-24 GHSA Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) had its first meeting in Macon on August 22, 2023.

The council is made up of 20 student-athletes with a male and female representative from each class and four "at large" members. Applications were submitted last spring and scored by a panel answers to based on five questions.

The council's focus this year will be on how to improve sportsmanship in schools, ways to acknowledge coaches and plavers who set good examples, and on improving the Inspiration Award and Student Section contest.

The council will be posting on Instagram (@ghsa.saac) and X (formerly Twitter) (@athleteGhsa).

For more information on the SAAC, you can contact Penny Mitchell at penny@ghsa.net or Tanya Anderson at tanyaanderson@ghsa.net.









Kileigh Barcomb Armuchee



East Laurens



Danica Resha Georgia Military



Carson Westbrook Schley County



Drew Hardwick

Abegayle Nesmith

West Laurens





NW Whitfield



Lucy Ray Gilmer



Rikki Carver Lakeside-Evans





James McCallar West Forsyth



Sanaaya Thompson

Rutland



Anna Cora Soto Norcross





Olivia Miller Oconee County



Nora Lott Coffee



Olivia Elder Mary Persons





Bhett Howard Allatoona







GHSA Salutes 2022-23 Cooperative Spirit Award Winners

Georgia's Electric Membership Cooperatives (EMCs) proudly sponsor the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award and are pleased to announce the 64 GHSA-member high schools that will receive this year's award. The award honors schools that demonstrated impeccable sportsmanship during the 2022-2023 school year.

"Congratulations to all of the region winners of the GHSA Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award for 2022-2023," said Dr. Robin Hines, GHSA's executive director. "It is an honor for these member schools to be selected by their regions for this award. The characteristics of good sportsmanship are critical to the development of our young people as they transition into productive adults. The GHSA applauds our schools on this accomplishment and appreciates Georgia's EMCs for their support of this outstanding recognition program."

Since 2006, the GHSA and Georgia's EMCs have sponsored the Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award which reinforces the GHSA philosophy: "Students, athletes, coaches, spectators and all others associated with high school activities programs should adhere to the fundamental values of respect, fairness, honesty and responsibility." Schools winning this award are thus honored for displaying exemplary sportsmanship during competition throughout the school year.

Student athletes, fellow students, school staff, parents and event spectators are recognized for the sportsmanship they display. The award is not only a school honor, but a community honor as well. The GHSA Region Secretaries select winners based upon sportsmanship demonstrated throughout the school year.

Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Awards are presented annually to the GHSA-member high schools in the 64 regions from the eight classifications by EMC representatives during fall athletic events and school assemblies.



Class 7-A

Region 1: Colquitt County Region 2: East Coweta Region 3: Harrison Region 4: South Gwinnett Region 5: Walton Region 6: Forsyth Central Region 7: Duluth Region 8: Dacula

Class 6-A

Region 1: Tift County Region 2: South Effingham Region 3: Woodward Academy Region 4: North Atlanta Region 5: Newnan Region 6: Allatoona Region 7: Blessed Trinity Region 8: Apalachee

Class 5-A

Region 1: Bradwell Institute Region 2: Warner Robins Region 3: Drew Region 4: Arabia Mountain Region 5: Chapel Hill Region 6: Northview Region 7: Woodland-Bartow Region 8: Clarke Central

Class 4-A

Region 1: Bainbridge Region 2: Perry Region 3: Burke County Region 4: Fayette County Region 5: Hampton Region 6: Druid Hills Region 7: Southeast Whitfield Region 8: Cedar Shoals Class 3-A Region 1: Crisp County Region 2: Jackson Region 3: Groves Region 4: Cross Creek Region 5: Sandy Creek Region 6: Coahulla Creek Region 7: Gilmer Region 8: Hart County

Class 2-A

Region 1: Sumter County Region 2: Jordan Region 3: Tattnall County Region 4: Johnson-Augusta Region 5: McNair Region 6: Coretta Scott King Region 7: Gordon Central Region 8: Union County

Class A, Division 1

Region 1: Pelham Region 2: Bleckley County Region 3: Woodville-Tompkins Region 4: Crawford County Region 5: Jasper County Region 5: Galloway Region 7: Dalton Academy Region 8: Commerce

Class A, Division 2

Region 1: SW Georgia STEM Region 2: Charlton County Region 3: Jenkins County Region 4: Treutlen Region 5: Hancock Central Region 6: Schley County Region 7: Mt. Zion-Carroll Region 8: Warren County

Simplify Registration, Payments & Concessions For Your School This Season

Are you spending way too much time helping your booster organizations keep up with day-to-day team management like registration, payments, discounts, or managing concessions?

There's a better way!

Pickle Juice is the official team management provider of the GHSA. All across Georgia, high schools and their booster club organizations are choosing Pickle Juice to simplify registration, payments, concession sales, team fundraising and revenue tracking - all from one central platform.

Pickle Juice is trusted by thousands of teams nationwide and is now part of the MySchoolBucks family. MySchool-Bucks school enablement platform delivers enormous value to millions of users and is trusted by over 30,000 schools and millions of families & students nationwide.

I would love to share with you more about Pickle Juice and see if we can help your club or school out this season. For more information, contact Andrew Sauer (Andrew.Sauer@picklejuiceapp.com) or go to the web site: https://picklejuiceapp.com/



Schools Are Reminded of MaxPreps Requirements in 2023-24

Schools are reminded that you are required to enter team schedules, rosters and game results during the season on MaxPreps and be responsible for updates as needed in the sports of Baseball, Basketball, Football (including Flag Football), Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball.

This information will support statewide media, event programs, broadcasts partners and GHSA Region Standings. Teams are encouraged to maintain team / individual statistics on MaxPreps.

Logging in to MaxPreps

• Login to MaxPreps.com and click the user icon in the upper right corner.

• Click on your school to be taken to the coach admin. You will see links for your roster & schedule.

Need access to MaxPreps?

• To gain access, you can contact Aaron Hendricks (ahendricks@maxpreps.com) with your school & sport if you do not have access to your coach admin.

Schedules

1. Once logged in, click on "Schedule"

2. To add a game, click on "+ Add"

3. Fill out the game information (date, time, location, game type).

4. The information will reflect on the team page within 15-30 minutes.

Scores

• Step-by-step instruction on how to enter scores is available by going to: https://support.maxpreps.com/hc/en-us/articles/202055644-Score-Management-

• Instructions on how to enter scores on the go may be found by going here: https://support.maxpreps.com/hc/en-us/articles/5803435720347

Rosters

1. Once logged in, click on your school to be taken to the coach admin. You'll see links for your roster.

2. Click on Roster in the menu or under the Team Checklist.

3. Click "Copy Roster from Last Year" to advance everyone from last year's team -or- select "Quick Add" to begin manually entering athletes.

4. Remember to include jersey numbers.

Stats

• The GHSA encourages coaches to submit stats after every game to help promote high school sports, and accurately track team and student-athlete performances.

• Step-by-step instructions of how to enter and edit stats is available here: https://support.maxpreps.com/hc/en-us/articles/202103644-Stat-Management

• We have great integration between GameChanger and MaxPreps, allowing for stats to be synced automatically. You find instructions here: https://support.maxpreps.com/hc/en-us/articles/208478467-GameChanger-Sync-with-MaxPreps

Live scores

• Keep your community up to date by assigning someone to provide live score updates.

• More info here: https://support.maxpreps.com/hc/enus/articles/202176914-Sports-with-live-scores



• Live scores will appear on MaxPreps.com & the Max-Preps app.

MaxPreps app

• A brand new MaxPreps app just launched prior to the season, download it today!

 Among the new features is the ability to create custom scoreboards by sport or location.

• Stay up-to-date on your favorite teams with exclusive push notifications.

• Go to the following link to download the app for iOS: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/id980665604

• Go to the following link to download for Android: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com .maxpreps.mpscoreboard

MaxPreps Help & Support

• High School coaches may contact MaxPreps at support@maxpreps.com with any questions.

• Support articles and videos on how to login, post scores and more are available at support.maxpreps.com

2023 Radio PSAs Now Available

The GHSA greatly appreciates radio station coverage of local high school teams in communities statewide. High school activities need your station's support more than ever, and we think the new PSA's will help.

This year's NFHS/NIAAA radio PSAs are ready for distribution. They cover significant topics surrounding interscholastic sports and performing arts that everyone in your community needs to hear—the importance of participation, DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion), student mental and physical wellness, the shortage of sports officials and bad fan behavior at athletic events.

No matter how you're connected to interscholastic sports and performing arts, these PSAs are for you!

Radio station personnel: Please download and broadcast the PSAs on your station as often as possible.

School personnel: Please download and play the PSAs at athletic events, during school announcements, on PA systems and telephone hold lines, and much more.

A link to download the PSAs is on the media page of the GHSA web site: ghsa.net/media-schedule

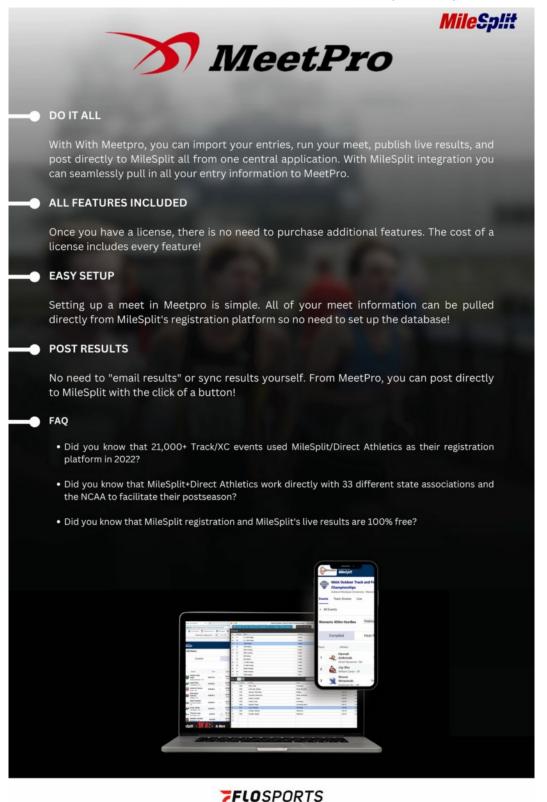


MeetPro + MileSplit: The Future of Meet Management

The future of Meet Management, putting all of the vital tools into a user-friendly dashboard and a button push away, management solution designed to meet all of the needs of has arrived. Introducing MeetPro, the track & field and cross- timers, meet directors, coaches, athletes and fans. country meet management application from DirectAthletics.

MeetPro is an inexpensive and full-featured meet

Learn more - https://tfmeetpro.com/features



Time to Upgrade Weight Room? Then Contact The Premo Source

Time to upgrade your weight room? My name is Bryan Benzor with The Premo Source, the GHSA's official premium athletic flooring, fitness and strength equipment supplier.

We assist athletic programs in transforming their facilities, especially weight rooms, to better serve its coaches and athletes.

Through our innovative and durable Ecore Athletic Flooring and Samson Equipment, we help our partners go above and beyond the competition.

If you are interested, please contact us or visit our website: www.thepremosource.com





ACT and SAT Assessment Dates

Each year, the GHSA office gets requests to alter schedules due to conflicts with ACT and SAT tests. We cannot accommodate those requests. The following chart gives dates of the exams and possible conflicts with GHSA activities. We urge you to inform your athletes and coaches **now** about these dates in order for the athletes to plan their assessments around events in which they are to compete.

ACT ASSESSMENT DATES

ACTIVITY CONFLICTS

ACTIVITY CONFLICTS

September 9, 2023	None
October 28, 2023	
	None
	State Dance Championship, Traditional Wrestling Sectional Tournaments
	None
	None
••••, •••, =•=	

SAT ASSESSMENT DATES

AP EXAM DATES	ACTIVITY CONFLICTS
Week 1 - May 6-10, 2024	Baseball, Lacrosse & Tennis Playoffs, Area/Sectional Golf
Week 2 - May 13-17, 2024	Baseball Playoffs

Participation Continues Rebound Toward Pre-Pandemic Levels

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (August 30, 2023) — Participation in high school sports eclipsed 7.8 million in the 2022-23 school year, reflecting a sharp increase from the previous year as the NFHS completed its High School Athletics Participation Survey for a second time after the pandemic interrupted its collection of data.

A total of 7,857,969 participants competed in high school sports in 2022-23, an increase of nearly 240,000 and up more than three percent from 2021-22 totals. The total includes 4,529,789 boys and 3,328,180 girls, according to figures obtained from the 51 NFHS member state associations, which includes the District of Columbia.

This year's total marks the first upward movement in participation data since the all-time record of 7,980,886 in 2017-18, which was followed by the first decline in 30 years in 2018-19 and the two-year halt in data collection related to the pandemic.

"We were optimistic that the trends we saw in 2021-22 would continue, and our dreams were realized this past year as more and more students continued to pursue opportunities in education-based sports in our nation's schools," said Dr. Karissa Niehoff, NFHS chief executive officer.

"Perhaps the most encouraging news with this year's survey is that most every sport for boys and girls registered an increase from the previous year," continued Niehoff. "Certainly, that is the goal of these programs – to meet the needs of as many students as possible. We salute coaches, administrators and everyone involved in school-based sports the past few years for their efforts in keeping these programs alive."

The top 10 sports remained the same for both boys and girls, with boys tennis leapfrogging boys golf as the eighthmost popular sport, and girls basketball and girls competitive spirit each moving up a spot on the girls side. On the boys side, eight of the top ten sports registered increases in participation, while nine of the top ten sports on the girls side added participants.

One of the biggest increases in participation for boys and girls was in the sport of wrestling. Boys wrestling jumped 10 percent, adding nearly 25,000 participants, to more than 256,000 – the largest total since 258,208 in 2014-15.

Amazingly, the increase in girls wrestling was even larger with 17,473 additional participants – a massive 55-percent increase from 2021-22 – to reach a record total of 49,127. Just 10 years ago, there were fewer than 10,000 girls in high

TEN MOST POPULAR BOYS PROGRAMS

Number of Schools		Total Participants	
 Basketball Track - Outdoor Baseball Cross Country Football - 11 player 	18,369 17,038 15,978 15,867 13,670	 Football - 11 player Track - Outdoor Basketball Baseball Soccer 	1,028,761 604,983 537,432 478,451 450,455
 Golf Soccer Wrestling Tennis Swimming 	13,505 12,484 10,722 10,116 7,673	 6. Wrestling 7. Cross Country 8. Tennis 9. Golf 10. Swimming 	256,466 240,201 158,306 150,175 116,741

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (August 30, 2023) — Participation in school wrestling. In addition, 36 states now offer separate h school sports eclipsed 7.8 million in the 2022-23 school state wrestling championships for girls.

Eleven-player football remained the most popular boys sport with the total climbing back over one million participants. The total of 1,028,761 participants marks an increase of 54,969 and 5.6 percent from the previous year. Not only did 11-player football top the one million mark, this year's increase was the first in the sport since 2013 and only the second increase since the all-time high of 1,112,303 in 2008-09. There also was a slight gain (34,935 to 35,301) in the number of boys in 6-, 8- and 9-player football.

The number of girls playing football – particularly flag football – continued to climb as well. A total of 20,875 girls participated in flag football in 2022-23 – an increase of 32 percent. Seven states now sponsor a state championship in girls flag and more are in the planning stages. The number of girls in 11-player football increased 18 percent with 3,654 participants.

Altogether, boys and girls participation in all versions of football increased from 1,028,976 to 1,089,880 – a jump of six percent.

On the girls side, outdoor track and field (+6.5%) and volleyball (+3.6%) remained in the top two spots, while basketball reclaimed the third position from soccer, jumping 3.5 percent and adding 12,896 participants. In addition, girls competitive spirit added 9,142 participants, an increase of 6.5 percent.

This year's survey also captured Esports participation data for the first time with 20,001 boys and 3,921 girls recorded. Eighteen states reported Esports participation, with Illinois and California leading the way, each with more than 3,000 participants.

Texas remained atop the list of state participation with 827,446, but California closed the gap in second adding 25,000 participants to climb to 787,697. New York is third with 356,803, followed by Illinois (335,801), Ohio (323,117), Pennsylvania (316,587), Florida (297,389), New Jersey (272,159), Michigan (268,070) and Minnesota (219,094), which climbed into the top 10 past Massachusetts.

The NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey was started in 1971 and was compiled in its current form through the 2018-19 school year, resuming annually last year with the 2021-22 survey. The complete 2022-23 NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey will be available soon on the NFHS website at www.nfhs.org.

TEN MOST POPULAR GIRLS PROGRAMS

Number of Schools

Total Participants

1. Basketball	17,881	1. Track - Outdoor	486,355
2. Track - Outdoor	16,997	2. Volleyball	470,488
3. Volleyball	16,610	3. Basketball	383,362
4. Cross Country	15,551	4. Soccer	377,838
5. Softball - Fast Pitch	15,406	5. Softball - Fast Pitch	344,952
6. Soccer	12,100	6. Cross Country	197,630
7. Golf	10,734	7. Tennis	191,036
8. Tennis	10,564	8. Competitive Spirit	149,694
9. Swimming	7,937	9. Swimming	140,711
10. Competitive Spirit	7,216	10. Lacrosse	98,014

September

- 4 Labor Day, GHSA Office closed
- 5 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 5 First Contest date for Game Day Cheerleading
- 11 First Practice date for Flag Football
- 19 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting

October

- 1 Deadline for notification of entry in One Act Play
- 1, 2 State Executive Committee Meeting
- 2 Earliest date for Flag Football game
- 3 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 9 First Practice date for Swimming & Diving
- 12 Complete Region Fastpitch Softball
- 13 Report Region Fastpitch Softball winners by 9 a.m.
- 14 Determine Region/Area Volleyball winners
- 16 Report Region/Area Volleyball winners by 9 a.m.
- 16-19 State Fastpitch Softball Tournament Super Regionals
- 17 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 17, 18 First Round State Volleyball Tournament
- 21 Second Round State Volleyball Tournament

GHSA Sponsors





















STRANAGEMEN



ALLIANCE





EGIONS

